

Musical Topics

Edited by Mrs. K. L. Skahen

Little Known Musical Facts.

(By J. M. Allison.)
In 1454 musicians were "impressed"—that is, forced by law—into the service of the Chapel Royal and cathedrals in England; and this practice continued until after the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

The music of the ancient Greeks was founded upon the tetrachord—a musical interval which we now call a perfect fourth, as from G to C. The intervals of the third and sixth upon which all modern music is largely based were not regarded with favor. The tones within the interval of the tetrachord were extremely variable and included quarter tones as well as half and whole tones.

The Russians sometimes amuse themselves by means of hunting horns combined to form a "horn band." Each performer produces only one note, which he plays whenever it occurs in the music.

While hymns as we know them today are a comparatively recent innovation in church services, before the Christian era. Many important collections of hymns date back to about 500 years before Christ, though of course hymns existed long before that period. Among the collections which have come down to us from them are the Sanscrit Rig-Veda, a Chinese Book of Odes, the Buddhist Hymns, the Grecian Homeric Hymns and the Odes of Pindar. The Latin Hymns or hymns of the Western Church date from the 4th to the 12th centuries, while the Lutheran Chorales date from the 16th century. The hymns which play so prominent a part in the services of the modern protestant churches were not in wide general use until about 1860.

Only one system of fingering is used on the harp, and there are no scales to be learnt as in the piano. The harp is tuned to the key of C flat—seven flats, one for each note in the scale. There are seven pedals, which, if pressed down half way raise the pitch half a tone, and if pressed down all the way, raise the pitch a

whole tone. Thus if C natural were required the C pedal would be pressed down half way, and all the C strings on the instrument would be affected. Further pressure on the pedal would raise the pitch to C sharp. Any passing chromatic notes are very difficult to perform on the harp at a quick rate as they need quick pedal work.

Noted Irish Composers of Last Century.

Among names scarcely remembered but who have done great work for Irish music may be mentioned John Field, born in Dublin, and who before his death in 1837 was recognized as one of the greatest pianists of his time. Thomas Cooke also born in Dublin, played on nine instruments and was a composer of operas, masses and songs. The author of the opera, "Valkyrie," was also a native of Dublin, and Balfe, the composer of the "Bohemian Girl," was another son of the Irish capital. William V. Wallace, a Waterford man, was the composer of "Maritana." His name is well known all over Europe and America. Of present day writers this article will refer to only three names—Rev. James B. Dillard, the Irish poet-priest of Canada; to Denis A. McCarthy, associate editor of the Sacred Heart Review, and, lastly, to the lamented Ethna Carbery, the wife of Seumas MacManus, who too soon laid aside her pen and passed out to the Great Beyond. She was the most gifted, true-souled Irish poet since the days of Moore. Many of her beautiful songs have been set to music.

MRS. K. L. SKAHEN
TEACHER OF
PIANO THEOSY CHORUS
Studio 215 So. Bridge Street
Phone 312-R Belding

GERMAN ATROCITIES RE-

COUNTED BY A VICTIM

I, Florence Claerhout, being first duly sworn on my oath depose and say:

That my name is Florence Claerhout. I am the wife of Emil Claerhout. I was born in Lendelede in the province of West Vlaanderen in Belgium on Dec. 12, 1884. My maiden name was Florence Verschate. I came to America about three years ago before the war broke out in 1914. I now reside on a farm in Bucalo township, Scott county, Iowa. In August, 1914, I visited my old home at Lendelede, Belgium, in the province of West Vlaanderen, having gone there in order to bring my children, mother and sister back here to America. I left for Belgium on the 21st day of May, 1914. On August 4, 1914, I saw the German soldiers invade Belgium. I saw them kill and imprison the male citizens of Lendelede. I saw the German soldiers rob the people of my village and burn their houses and cut the fingers from the women and children for the rings on them. Two young boys were imprisoned in a house which was then burned. I saw a woman carrying two buckets of water and saw a soldier pass her and draw his sword and cut off her right hand. I saw the priest of a Catholic church plead with the soldiers to spare the lives of the women and children and saw one of the soldiers draw his saber and cut off the priest's head.

I know two young girls 18 and 20 years of age, who had to submit to the German officers after serving them their dinner. This was told to me by the girls themselves. I know shortly after this one of these two girls became insane and the other committed suicide. I saw five young boys shot by the German soldiers while out riding on their bicycles. I knew a young married couple that had retired for the night when five soldiers forced the door of their room and forced the woman to submit to

them, while others stood guard over her husband with a revolver. This was told me by the woman herself.

At the depot at Vlaanderen I saw an English soldier wounded that had no hat or shoes or socks and it was cold and he complained because he suffered with cold and I found an old blanket and covered him up and then the soldier on guard knocked me down for doing it. I saw German soldiers have in their possession the cut-off fingers of women and children with rings on them.

I saw a French aeroplane shot down and the aviator wounded and then I saw the wounded aviator thrown into a hole by the German soldiers and buried alive. I could hardly stand the sight. I saw German aviators fly over our village and drop bombs on the people. Under penalty of death we were then forced by the German soldiers to say it was done by the English and French.

Mrs. Peter de Broon and Lillian Wineberry told me that they were forced to submit to being outraged by the German soldiers. Mrs. de Broon also told me that her husband came to her assistance and then the soldiers shot him through the head, the ball passing through both cheeks and a sheet iron stove.

I was standing at a small house with my mother, sister and children, and a German officer came in and demanded that I submit to his wishes. He forced me into a small room, but I fought with him and got away. All this happened in the town of Lendelede in Belgium.

I left Belgium on January 8, 1918, to come back to America. When I came to leave Belgium before they would give me my passports, I had to swear before a German official that I would not tell any of these things, either to the French or the English, nor to divulge anything I had seen or knew to have happened in Belgium.

I traveled on foot to my destination with my two little children from Lendelede, and when I got to my des-

ination our shoes were worn from off our feet.

Mrs. Florence Claerhout, Subscribed and sworn to before me by Florence Claerhout, this 28th day of February, A. D. 1918.

(Seal) Henry Westphal, Notary Public in and for Scott county, Iowa.

W. C. T. U. ITEMS

All brewing to end December 1 by order of the president. Heads of fuel, railroad and food administrations urge drastic step. Senate passes the dry bill.

Washington, Sept. 6.—Manufacture of beer in the United States will be prohibited after Dec. 1 next as a war measure.

This announcement was made to-night by the food administration, which said the decision had been reached at conferences between President Wilson and representatives of the fuel, food and railroad administrations and the war industries board. Immediate suspension of the purchase of grains for malting purposes was also ordered.

Factors which influenced the decision to prohibit the manufacture of beer after Dec. 1, the food administration announcement said, were "the further necessity of war industries for the whole fuel productive capacity of the country, the considerable drought which has materially affected the supply of feeding stuff for next year, the strain upon transportation to handle necessary industries and the shortage of labor caused by enlargement of the army program."

The \$12,000,000 emergency agricultural bill, with its rider for national prohibition until the American armies are demobilized after the war, was passed by the senate without a roll call.

Before the final passage of the measure, the senate voted, 45 to 6, to retain the prohibition rider. A final effort to postpone the effective date of the "dry" legislation to Dec. 30, 1919, was defeated.

THE BUSY STORK

Every year 2,250,000 babies are born in the United States. The daily birth rate is a little over 6,173.—From The People's Home Journal.

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The Day's Best Thoughts

The Art of Life and Building

Edited by NOBLE FOSTER HOGGSON
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On Books in Gardens and Gardens in Books

By Richard Le Gallienne

Charles Lamb has put himself on record as "not much a friend to out-of-door reading," but then, no one would expect him to be. Loveliest of all Cockneys, we want him to be nothing but himself. Yet, as with Dr. Johnson, his jurisdiction lies entirely within the city limits, and no two men were ever so out of court on the subject of "green fields," of which no other than that adorable racial Falstaff "babbled" even in death.

So those of us who like reading out of doors need not let our hearts be troubled. It is not necessary to agree with great men all the time, and on this matter, we have no few with us. Others, neither great nor famous but merely our familiar friends and acquaintances, tell us that nature is good enough without books. A book, say they, is as much out of place in the fields as tobacco smoke. To sickly o'er nature with the pale cast of literature is like smoking a strong cigar in a lane perfumed with honeysuckle.

Still in this we have a powerful witness for the defense in Walt Whitman, who in one of his prose personalia, tells us that he always took a book out with him on his walks, though, he added, he seldom read it. When we take a book out of doors with us, it is not for the purpose of information. It is merely to have with us a silent spiritual companion to hold by the hand. Usually it is a book we know by heart, one that we are sure of chiming in with the mood of the moment.

I have never yet heard of anyone taking Euclid thus out for a walk. Certainly he would seem the strangest companion to choose for a quiet hour in a garden—but on the other hand, how many books there are that one can imagine reading nowhere else than in a garden—Spenser's "Fairy Queen," for example, a book filled with pictures of gardens of which here is one:

There the most daintie Paradise on ground
It selfe doth offer to his sober eye,
In which all pleasures plenteously abound,
And none does others happiness enioye;

The painted flowers, the trees up-shooting hie,
The dales for shade, the hills for breathing space,
The trembling groves, the christall running by.

Theocritus is another poet to be read in a garden, and there is scarcely another garden in books lovelier than this in his twelfth idyll, thus perfectly translated by Andrew Lang:

"Then he bent his way to the left, and took the road to Pexa, while I and Eucritus, with beautiful Amyntas, turned to the farm of Phrasidemus. There we reclined on deep beds of fragrant lentisk, lowly strewn, and rejoicing we lay in our stript leaves of the vine. And high above our heads waved many a poplar, many an elm tree, while close at hand the sacred water from the nymphs' own cave welled forth with murmurs musical. On shadowy boughs the burnt cicadas kept their chattering toil; far off the little owl cried in the thick thorn bralle; the larks and finches were singing, the ring-dove moaned, the yellow bees were flitting about the springs. All breathed the scent of the opulent summer, of the season of

Who Are Pro-Germans?
I t is not only the man or woman who sympathizes with Germany who is pro-German.
Profiteers—that despicable class that lines its coffers with gold, squeezed out of the life blood of the countless millions of Americans—are pro-German.
The inefficient are pro-German.
The over-eaters are pro-German.
The luxury lovers are pro-German.
Those who loaf are pro-German.
Those who complain are pro-German.
Those who make needless expenditures are pro-German.
Those who refuse to invest in government securities are pro-German.
Those who idle away time which belongs to their employers are pro-German.
Those who visit during business hours are pro-German.
Those who seize every opportunity to go to summer resorts when they do not need the rest and relaxation are pro-German.

Today, when the great crisis in our national life—in our individual life—has arrived we must have outspoken declarations of allegiance. Nothing must be tolerated but Americanism. No one who lives here, and earns his livelihood here and enjoys the privileges offered by this country, no matter whence he originally hailed, has any right to be pro-anything but American.

fruits; pears at our feet and apples by our sides were rolling plentiful; the tender branches, with wild plums laden, were earthward bowed."
Poetry and romances are perhaps the best books for the garden, though certain inspiring or tranquillizing essays are very much in place there; but the book we read in the garden, whatever its nature, should always have a certain beauty and dignity about it. If we leave our book behind us on the marble seat by the lotus pond with the cypresses rustling overhead as some particularly gentle readers are apt to do, oh, let it be no book the mere presence of which will insult that stately setting—some crass novel of the moment or some vulgar humorist of the hour. Neither newspapers nor magazines should ever be read in a garden. If it's

"O for a book!"
And a shade nook!"
see that the book matches the neek. And while a garden of course, is a joyous place, it is no place for levity. Noise nor foolish voices should ever enter there. All such profanes it, for the nymph, who, together with the garden-god presides over it is that "Fair Quiet" whom Andrew Marvell found one of the most famous gardens in literature, that garden which caused him to exclaim:

What wondrous life is this I lead!
Ripe apples drop about my head;
The luscious clusters of the vine
Upon my mouth do crush their wine;
The nectarine, and curious peach,
Into my hands themselves do reach;
Stumbling on melons, as I pass,
Ensnared with flowers, I fall on

Gardens to be found in books are, as a rule, the friendly haunts of lovers. Some few, like the Academe in which Plato and Epicurus walked to and fro among their disciples, or those in which Horace and Virgil polished their verses, or those Italian gardens of the Renaissance, where scholars discussed metaphysics, or some newly discovered classic text—some few such are dedicated to learning and "divine philosophy"; but most of the famous gardens that, in the mere reading, seem so green, and smell so sweet in books, are the very setting and stage of love. Ah! how often have lovers seen each other for the first and the last time—in gardens.

I made another garden, yea
For my new love:
I left the dead rose where it lay
And set the new above.

Why did my Summer not begin?
Why did my heart not begin?
Why did my heart not haste?
My old Love came and walk'd therein.

And I laid the garden waste.
Personally, I have an old fashioned love for that garden where the lover of "Maud" "stood there at the gate alone"—and sang her out to him with lyric music which not all the derisive quotation of youthful posterity can state—

She is coming, my own, my sweet;
Were it ever a airy tread,
My heart would hear her and beat,
Were it earth in an earthly bed;
My dust would hear her and beat,
Had I lain for a century dead;
Would start a tremble under her feet,
And blossom in purple and red.
Some day I will make a list
Of books to be read in gardens and a list
Of gardens to be found in books.
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Church and Sunday School

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Prayer service, Thursday evening, 7:30.
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